

Amendments to the Specification:

Paragraph 22 has been amended as follows:

[0022] The present invention is useful in a process for forming contact lenses from a reaction mixture. The contact lenses are preferably formed in a mold assembly having first and second mold parts, which have been previously disclosed in the prior art, but will be described in relation to FIG. 2. In an exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, the mold assembly 35 comprises first mold part 37, and second mold part 36, both of which are preferably formed of polystyrene transparent to visible and ultraviolet light. However, other materials such as other plastic materials, metal, glass and quartz may be used in this invention, many of which are disclosed in the prior art. First mold part 37 comprises a central curved section defining a concave surface 31, circular circumferential edge 31c, and integral with said edge an essentially uniplanar flange 31a that is extended on one side to form a tab 31d. The second mold part 36 comprises convex surface 33, flange 33a, and tab 33d. When assembled the mold assembly defines a cavity 32 in which a reaction mixture 34 forms a contact lens. Typically, excess reaction mixture 34a overflows cavity 32, and collects on the flange 31a. At least a part of the concave surface 31 and the convex surface 33 are contact lens forming surfaces, that is, they are surfaces that have the dimensions of the front surface and back surface of the contact lens to be formed in the mold assembly 35. As shown, all of the concave surface 31 is a contact lens forming surface; however, for a different first mold part and/or mold assembly that may not be true. In the preferred embodiment, the first mold part is and may be referred to herein as a front curve mold, or variations of that, such as front curve, front curve mold half, FC or the like, and the second mold part 36 is and may be referred to herein as a back curve mold or variations of that, such as back curve, back curve mold half, BC or the like. The back curve mold half forms the back surface of a contact lens, that is, the surface that contacts the eye when worn, the front curve mold half forms the opposite surface. In the preferred embodiment, which is not shown in FIG. 2, the mold parts have approximately the same thickness and preferably weigh less than 1 gram each. Also in the preferred embodiment the mold parts are disposable. However, this invention can be used to decrease the numbers of defects formed in the surfaces of contact lenses using mold parts having various designs or comprising various materials that are reusable or disposable or

mold parts that otherwise differ from the mold parts described herein. The preferred mold parts are disclosed and described in U.S. Ser. No. 09/305,886, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,592,356
titled (VTN-424), incorporated herein by reference.

Paragraph 27 has been amended as follows:

[0027] FIG. 1(f) is a block diagram of the method of the present invention and FIGS. 1(a)-(e) are diagrammatic illustrations of one embodiment of the method of the present invention. As illustrated in FIG. 1(a), carriers or pallets 30 are fed to the deposition and/or assembly stations carrying first mold parts 37 and second mold parts 36. The pallets may arrive in alternating sequence with the pallet containing back curves first in sequence, followed immediately thereafter by a pallet loaded with front curves, or in the preferred embodiment, there can be adjacent lanes or tracks, one lane for pallets having back curves and the other lane for pallets having front curves. Lanes are shown and described in reference to FIG.4. The lanes preferably comprise a smooth metal surface on which the pallets are pushed or pulled to convey the pallets from one station or apparatus to the next. In the preferred embodiment mold parts are injection molded, conveyed to the stamping, deposition and assembly stations, and fully assembled in less than 70 seconds, in an ambient environment as described in U.S. Ser. No. 09/222,266, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,241,918
(VTN-421), incorporated herein by reference.